

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
for Virginia Avenue and Hearst Ave Crossings in Berkeley

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is circulating Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for public comment.

Project/Location: The project proposes safety improvements to two existing at-grade rail crossings on Virginia Street and Hearst Avenue in the City of Berkeley in Alameda County. The improvements are designed to increase safety for motorists and pedestrians. Currently the two crossings consist of two-lane roadways with parking on both sides, paved medians, sidewalks, and landscaping within the UPRR easement from the City. Single-arm gates are present in each direction of traffic. Safety improvements at both crossings include installation new security gates/fencing, medians, pavement markings, automatic pedestrian gates, and roadside signals. Additional improvements include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) detectable pavers, warning devices, “No Trespassing” signs, replacement of signal arms, and installation of new sidewalks.

Document Availability: The Initial Study/MND will be available for review at the following location beginning on Wednesday, March 15, 2023:

- Alameda CTC website: <https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/transit-and-rail/rail-safety-enhancement-program>

Public Review Period: The 30-day public review period for the Initial Study/MND is from March 15, 2023, to April 13, 2023.

Comments: Any person who wishes to comment on the Alameda CTC’s intent to adopt the MND must submit written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Written comments may be sent to: Jhay Delos Reyes, Principal Transportation Engineer at Alameda CTC, via email to jdolosreyes@alamedactc.org or by mail at 1111 Broadway, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94607.

Project Impacts: Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment based on mitigating measures, which will be attached to the project as conditions of approval. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared outlining a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to mitigate the potentially significant impacts.

Public Hearing: The Virtual Public Hearing for Virginia Avenue and Hearst Ave Crossings in Berkeley will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

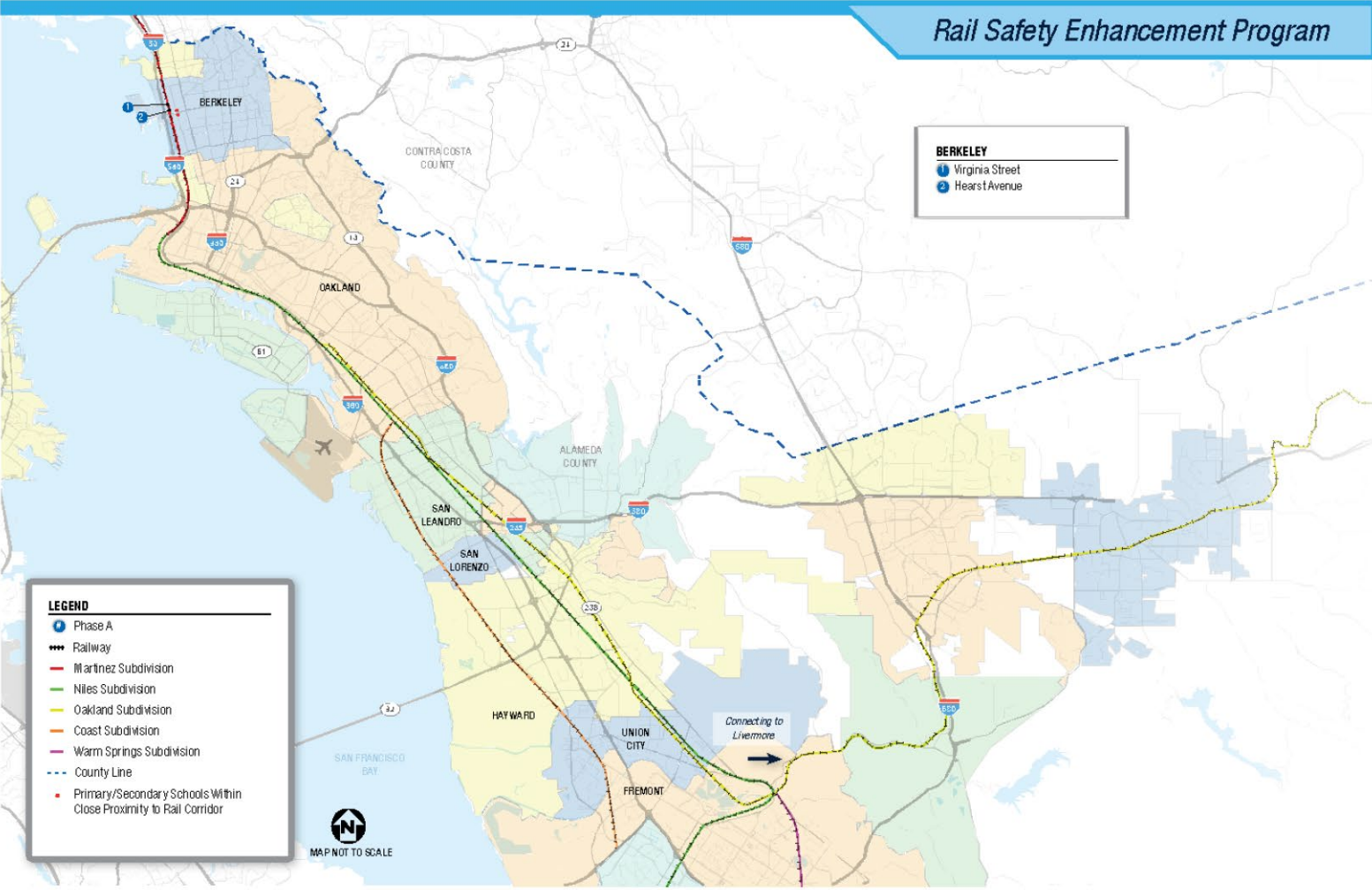


Figure 1: Project Site Map